

REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the non-final official action dated June 16, 2009, wherein (a) claims 1-5 were pending, (b) claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and (c) claims 1-5 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

This response is timely-filed, as it is accompanied by a petition for automatic extension of time to file in the third month, and the requisite extension fee.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in light of the amendments to claim 1 and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and to provide antecedent basis for the recited dispersing plate. No new matter has been introduced.


Amended claim 1 recites, in part, that "a stream of the reducing gas is heated by injected oxygen and is partially combusted in (a) to (c)." Thus, the oxygen is injected into a stream of reducing gas when it is supplied to the fluidized beds. Amended claim 1 also recites, in part, that "oxygen gas is directly injected to the reducing gas that passes through a dispersing plate to be partially combusted in (d) to (f)." This partial combustion increases the temperature of the reducing gas.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to provide clarification, and to address the bases for the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the indefiniteness rejections should be withdrawn, and such action is solicited.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form or procedure in an effort to advance this application to allowance, she is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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